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rather, an application from me, will, perhaps, be all the Committee desire.

The writer is to be found at his address, and, I doubt not, would yield any information the Committee might desire.

FRANCIS WHISHAW, *Esq.*,
Secretary, &c. &c.

AUG. BOSANQUET.

MY DEAR SIR, 151 Fenchurch Street, 7 Feb. 1843.

IN answer to your note of yesterday respecting the date of which your invention for corking champagne by means of capsules was put into my hands, I beg to state the pattern was received by me from yourself and forwarded to France in the latter part of 1834, and the first case of champagne so prepared I find entered in my books, as received from France and delivered to your late firm, on the 1st of April, 1835. I suppose this statement is all you wish, it can be verified by my books, as also by those of the house in France, who shipped the wine if necessary.

I remain, Sir, &c.

AUGUSTUS BOSANQUET, *Esq.* (Signed) P. SCHEYDT.

No. XVIII.

SHIELD FOR SORE NIPPLES.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. WANSBROUGH, King's Road, Chelsea, for his Leaden Shield for Sore Nipples; Models of which have been placed in the Society's Repository.

SIR, King's Road, Chelsea, Nov. 1, 1842.

I BEG to submit to the notice of the Society of Arts the accompanying pair of leaden shields; they are a pattern

of those which I have applied for twenty-five years, as a sure and certain preventive and cure in that painful and distressing affection of mothers, namely, “sore nipples.”

Although trifling articles in appearance, yet, as they lead to a most desirable and important result, I venture to submit the “leaden nipple shield” to the notice of the Society; and should it be deemed worthy of an explanation relative to its curative character, I shall be ready and glad to afford such an one as shall render the apparently trifling “shield” of more importance than at first sight may be imagined.

I am, Sir, &c.

W. A. GRAHAM, *Esq.*

T. W. WANSBROUGH.

GENTLEMEN,

November 17, 1842.

THE subject which I have the honour this evening to lay before you, and touching which I am called upon to address you, is one of deep and sympathising interest to us all as men, and particularly so in our relative situations as husbands and fathers, for it concerns the safety, welfare, and happiness of the tender sex,—the fairest portion of God’s creatures,—dear, delightful, devoted woman,—a ministering angel sent by Heaven to soothe our anguish on the bed of sickness, to assuage our grief, and to share our joys in happiness and prosperity, to whom, also, we are indebted for most, if not all, our domestic happiness and comfort. Allow me, gentlemen, to tender to you my sincere and grateful acknowledgments for this opportunity which your kindness and courtesy have afforded me of calling your attention to this most interesting and important subject.

Is it not enough, gentlemen, that the tender object of

our dearest affections should have been doomed by the common lot to pass through the perilous pangs of parturition, which, by the merciful dispensation of an all-wise Providence, she may be permitted to do in safety, without the additional suffering so often attendant upon the office, which, to a fond mother, conveys ineffable delight and joy, namely, of affording to her infant offspring that support which nature has provided for it?

It too frequently happens, gentlemen, that this delectable prospect of maternal felicity is nipped in the bud, or annihilated by an occurrence, in itself, at first, apparently not of much moment, yet too often it is the precursor of the most distressing and disastrous consequences, namely, a sore nipple, which, from time immemorial, has baffled the most skilful medical treatment. The part becomes irritated from the action of the child's mouth, and the vacuum produced thereby, which is increased by atmospheric pressure, inflammation succeeds, the vessels are ruptured by the combined action of these causes, and the unhappy mother withdraws her gory nipple from the infant's boneless gums. Worn out with corporeal pain and mental anguish, she is most reluctantly compelled for its preservation to resign the offspring of her bosom, perhaps the first pledge of conjugal love, to the tender mercies and the bosom of a stranger, thence to derive its nourishment and support. Thus is she deprived of those delightful anticipations and pleasurable prospects which the performance of her maternal duty had pictured to her fond and fertile imagination. Gentlemen, the mischief, unfortunately, does not end here; the inflammation extends to the gland, the escape of the milk is prevented, fever supervenes, often attended with delirium, an abscess is formed, and that most dreadful of

all evils to a woman, a bad breast, terminates this sad, eventful history. It not unfrequently occurs, that the structure of one of the glands is so much disorganised that nourishment to a future offspring is entirely precluded.

This, gentlemen, is by no means an exaggerated statement; far from it, for, unfortunately, it bears the stamp of irrefragable evidence in the records of medical practice; and the every-day experience of practitioners affords painful confirmation of its correctness. These facts are also applicable, with melancholy addition, to the poor; for a woman unable to defray the expense of a wet-nurse for her child, it is doomed to be brought up “by hand,”—brought up did I say, alas! the reverse is more often the fact. The *penchant* for the breast with an infant is insatiable, and not easily overcome by any means that may be substituted. The delicate stomach of a new-born babe is not constituted to retain the food composed of improper elementary properties, which is the portion of the poor. The unfortunate alien from its mother’s breast rejects this foreign food, pines, and perishes, the victim of atrophy, marasmus, and inanition.

Among all the various remedial means that have been proposed for this painfully distressing affection, none have proved sufficiently effectual, either as a preventive or cure. The subject has occupied the attention of medical men for a considerable period, and numerous have been the remedies recommended and applied; but they have all failed in the desired result. Now, gentlemen, this little apparatus which I have the honour to submit to your notice possesses these great desiderata. As a preventive, it is requisite only to say that it effectually accomplishes the desired end, by being applied imme-

diately after delivery. Its curative character consists in the nipple being immersed in a lotion produced by a lactate of lead, formed by the lactic acid acting upon the metal, the whole contained in a reservoir, as it were, in the cavity of the shield, which, by adhering closely, prevents pressure, and may therefore be worn with the dress. It is, in fact, a perfect ægis. I have used these shields in the most severe cases in a somewhat extensive practice for upwards of a quarter of a century, even though the nipple has suppurated and sloughed to the extent of half its volume, threatening the destruction of the whole. I have never experienced a failure. Yes, gentlemen, this little apparently trifling and intrinsically valueless article, because formed of a material in the lowest scale of metallurgy, possesses, nevertheless, powerful properties when put to the proof, producing the most pleasurable operation upon the principle of philanthropy.

In conclusion, I have only to say, that I leave the subject in your hands, in perfect confidence that you will duly appreciate its interesting ramifications and extent, fully assured that it will receive, from your association of sentiment and sympathy with the sorrowing sufferers, all the consideration which the interest and importance of the subject justly demand. I ask for no reward, I seek for no remuneration, beyond your approbation, and the heartfelt gratification arising from the reflection that I have, though humbly, yet effectively, contributed to the relief of suffering woman. Aided by your fostering patronage and support, I venture to indulge the flattering hope that this little shield will go forth under such favourable and honourable auspices, and afford happiness and comfort to all matrons, and that thousands yet unborn

may live to bless the shield that succoured in safety the source of their succulent subsistence.

SIR,

18 *Saville Row*, Dec. 1, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, requesting my opinion on a leaden shield for sore nipples brought before the Society of Arts by Dr. Wansbrough.

I have not, to the best of my recollection, seen Dr. Wansbrough's shield. The advantages to be derived from the leaden shield are stated to be, the protection of the nipple against the pressure of the dress, and the keeping the nipple immersed in a healing lotion. From the result of observations made in a tolerably extensive practice, both public and private, I may state there can be no doubt of the comfort afforded the patient by protecting the sore nipple from the pressure and friction of the dress; but if this extends to the exclusion of the air, I believe the recovery of the sore nipple is much protracted, and more particularly so if at the same time it is kept immersed in a tepid fluid. My opinion, therefore, is directly opposed to the shield under discussion, on two principles,—that of preventing the access of air, and keeping the nipple immersed in a warm bath. I am not able to speak of any beneficial effect that may be derived from the composition of the shield (lead). It may not be foreign to state that, in a conversation this day with the Matron of the British Lying-in Hospital, she mentioned one instance of tea-lead being applied as a shield to the sore nipple of a patient, and that the patient complained of its irritating effect.

I have a high opinion of Dr. Wansbrough's talent,

and will give his leaden nipple-shield a fair trial, after which I shall be happy to give my opinion of its merits.

I regret that my engagements this evening may prevent me having the pleasure of attending the Committee.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

HENRY DAVIES, M.D.

W. A. GRAHAM, Esq. &c. &c.

3 Nottingham Place,

Feb. 15, 1843.

SIR,

I HAVE not had an opportunity of giving a trial to Dr. Wansbrough's shield; I very seldom have such cases in my own practice; they are prevented by keeping the nipple in a dry state, which is in opposition to the practice of applying liquids. Solutions of lead have not usually been serviceable.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

To the Secretary of the
Society of Arts.

J. CHOLMONDELEY.

SIR,

Chelsea, Feb. 24, 1843.

I BEG to hand you the enclosed for the information of the Committee.

I am sure that Mr. Jones has *considerably underrated* the number of shields he made for me during the *twenty-two years* that he supplied me with them. I, however, hope the Committee will accept the statement *sui generis*, and afford that consideration to the subject which its importance demands.

Be it remembered, that Mr. Jones has not expended two pounds in advertisements!

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

T. W. WANSBROUGH.

FRANCIS WHISHAW, Esq.

High Street, Fulham,

Feb. 23, 1843.

SIR,

IN complying with your request with respect to the quantity of leaden shields I have made for you, I beg to say, to the best of my recollection, I should think from thirty to forty pair; but it having gone over so many years, and you having paid for them separately, I am not able to say positively, not having booked them. May I beg to call your attention to the improved method I have adopted in getting up the article, which I am now supplying the public with? I have sold since last July seventy-eight pair.

I am, Sir, &c.

T. W. WANSBROUGH, Esq. M.D.

P. JONES.

18 Craven Street, Strand,

May 10, 1843.

SIR,

I HAVE to communicate to you the result of a trial of the leaden nipple shield made by Mr. Jones of Fulham, upon the suggestion of Dr. Wansbrough.

I was favoured with a pair sent me by you, but the metal was so slight, that it was incapable of resisting the pressure of the dress, and were speedily flattened out of shape, and were useless. In the meantime I had written to Mr. Jones, who forwarded me another pair, and which have most perfectly answered the purpose intended. The case was one of very severe fissure all round both nipples, and they were cured in about sixteen days.

I beg leave to enclose the pair which effected this in return for the pair which you sent me, but which were destroyed.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

*To the Secretary of the
Society of Arts.*

*JAMES LEONARD,
Surgeon.*